CBS NEWS STS-1 LAUNCH (4-12-1981)

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From Sunday, April 12th 1981 CBS NEWS Coverage of the launch of STS-1, the first Space Shuttle mission. Coverage runs from 6:30 A.M E.T - 7:17 A.M E.T, Launch at 7:00:03 A.M E.T

STS-1 CREW:
Commander: John Young
Pilot: Bob Crippen
(April 12th - April 14th, 1981)

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on the eastern horizon of the kennedy space center stands the muscular trident of the space shuttle and today on the 20th anniversary of man's first venture into space two american astronauts are poised and waiting to add a new dimension to space travel john young and bob crippen are in the cockpit of the space shuttle columbia ready to ride her into orbit and fly her back to earth the computer problem that scrubbed the shuttle's launch on friday all those problems have been resolved and the countdown is moving evenly toward a blast off about 20 minutes from now this first true spaceship not a capsule leaves earth exactly two decades after the russian cosmonaut yuri gagarin in vostok one became the first man to enter space and it leaves from the same launch pad 39a at the kennedy space center from which neil armstrong and apollo 11 left to put man's first step on the moon this is a cbs news special report wings in space the first flight of the shuttle this portion is sponsored by the bell system putting its knowledge to work for your business in the information age now here again is dan rather it's an absolutely beautiful day at the kennedy space center the weather is even better than the planters of this morning's launch had hoped for the countdown has been proceeding uh smoothly every bit as smoothly as it was on friday morning when the launch was originally scheduled you recall we got down to within nine minutes of a possible launch on friday morning before that computer problem developed

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problem developed no sign of any computer problem uh this morning no sign of any hitch in the countdown tall you can see this shot of with the sun low but coming up over the horizon and one reason we wanted to show you that photograph is to indicate that once columbia gets a lift off and gets up uh it may be a particularly good morning to see the intros of the space shot perhaps even better than was the case on friday morning there you see the countdown clock proceeding 17 19 18 seconds counting on down at this point uh it was just about uh at this point in the countdown on friday 16 minutes as i recall when uh i put the first hint of a problem having to do with the fuel cells in the spacecraft occurred it was a hole then the fuel cell problem turned out to be not so much of a problem but while that problem was being looked into is when the computer problem first developed and as i said before we got down to nine minutes on friday and uh that's uh as close as we got to launch the astronauts are in the cockpit of the space shuttle mps checking out making their last minute checks what you see in this uh picture right on either side the two small almost uh firecracker looking rockets on the sides are the solid rocket boosters the largest of the uh rocket-looking paraphernalia is the external tank carrying uh most of the fuel for the arbiter itself and then in the lower center slightly right hand part of your screen you see the arbiter itself and uh right at the tip of that the cockpit possibly make out what would otherwise

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possibly make out what would otherwise be called the windshield of the windscreen behind which uh astronauts john young and bob crippen are once again awaiting their launch now early this morning at their breakfast session hours before launch uh roads around the space center were crowded even as the astronauts themselves john young and bob crippen were going into the spacecraft young and crippen were awakened at 2 25 this morning then went into their breakfast uh breakfast with space agency officials including former astronaut uh jack schmidt current senator from new mexico is with us here this morning they were seated at separate tables as a sort of limited quarantine to keep them from getting any last-minute infections the meal was orange juice canadian bacon and fried eggs and toasts they then went to suit up for the flight now these are a are emergency ejection suits they're wearing the kind of suits the reconnaissance jet pilots wear these are not space suits are the type worn for walking on the moon the astronauts will have separate suits in the spacecraft with them if they have to go outside the craft for repairs of course they hope they don't have to use those suits they can eject up to one hundred thousand feet in these suits we went to a van convoy to the spacecraft at pad 39a and then they entered the van of course cheered by space agency workers trip was about six miles to the pad working with the closeout crew they've prepared to enter the spacecraft itself this particular scene is the band that took them to the spacecraft working with the closeout crew they prepared to enter the spacecraft itself john young went first followed by bob crippen by the way when the mission was scrubbed

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by the way when the mission was scrubbed two days ago young and the navy tradition was the last to leave as the commander of the craft and the astronauts uh went on board about 4 15 a.m eastern time this morning the only even slight indication of any hitch in the countdown thus far there was some concern for a short while when a problem developed in the lines feeding the breathing air to their helmets but everything was quickly cleaned up all of that happened just after this scene in which the hatch was finally closed as i mentioned senator jack schmidt is with us in our cbs news studio here at the kennedy space center this morning had breakfast with the astronauts facts met uh you who uh among the last americans to walk on the moon the only scientists to walk on the moon in there at breakfast this morning what was the mood we were told that commander john young was uh looked a little punchy at the time as usual smiling and chipping away i i don't know how uh how you describe a person's look as pensive i've never been able to figure that out but john was a little quieter than normal at least while the television cameras were in and while the photographer was there but that's fairly typical for some reason every breakfast pre-fight breakfast i've ever been at when the cameras come in everybody sort of tightens up a little bit uh you'll have to explain it i i can't but uh soon after uh john uh and got into their weather briefing and their final uh briefing on what changes have been found in the spacecraft and so forth and the checklist and they uh loosened up and it was the fairly typical uh jovial thing about don't wreck my schedule for next week john you know get this thing off the ground what uh what special things were done to keep the astronauts up what did

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the astronauts up what did could they do what did they do with themselves to keep you have to have your adrenaline pumping to a certain extent hey believe me there's no problem i don't care when this thing is going to launch there's always going to be adrenaline and the whole training very such that you get used to delays and simulations you get used to delays and in this schedule and that and there's no problem getting your adrenaline up but you know you know what's going to happen out there and you've got to be ready for it well any last instructions given to them over breakfast this morning anybody have anything to say you didn't need that uh of course we they've been through it once before and that may be one reason why there was a little a little more subdued is that we did it 48 hours ago uh but the uh the backup or the support crew was in with the typical briefing on what they had found during the countdown which was essentially nothing so there wasn't much to say there then the weather briefing came on the loop and uh they participated in that and the weather's beautiful almost everywhere except i guess it's raining in a life and and so it was a very straightforward thing there really wasn't much to say senator uh any of your questions call you uh after the launch was scrubbed on friday and say uh listen uh this is yet another indication that this not worth the money not worth doing no the only place i saw that was a few comments in the newspaper uh as i travel around the country and particularly around new mexico i don't find any lack of enthusiasm for space there's been a lack of information over the last six years or so but not a lack of enthusiasm and particularly among the young people i think that's one reason why these crowds out here are so large and enthusiastic is that we've got the space generation now able to have their own cars in many cases their own families and they're attending the launch as as adults rather than six or eight years ago as kids watching it on television there have been some reports that if we get a successful uh launch orbit and return to earth of the space shuttle that the regular administration has prepared and has already written and set uh some new target in space to announce anything about that well i don't i've been encouraging them to do that and i'd hope that

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hope that maybe they would use this launch and successful recovery of the space shuttle as a one of the few positive events that an administration can have of major domestic and international proportions to articulate a new purpose for this country in space we really haven't had a purpose since john kennedy articulated the apollo program's purpose of going to the moon and returning safely and since then we've been riding on momentum now the space shuttle itself is a fantastic accomplishment but it's a technology it provides the basis now to do things in space that we never could imagine doing before that is not not a purpose you have to say we're going to be there and we're going to be there permanently very quickly senator in a time of budget cutting everybody told they have to tighten their belts can you get uh through congress and get approved and get signed by the president a big new space program these things are expensive no i don't think so not at this time and i don't think the president would ask uh now would it maybe be appropriate what we have to do is make sure we maintain our capabilities to move quickly within the 18 months or two years i would say the critical budget year is fiscal year 1984. senator thank you very much i hope you'll stick around this morning we'd like to talk to you again i enjoy watching the thank you very much cbs news coverage of the flight of the space shuttle columbia will continue in just a moment our goal for launch at the present time we know of no major problems as we enter this final 10-minute build-in hold one of the first events which will occur during this hold will be the retraction of the gog spin arm and we're waiting for uh the command to do that at the present time t minus nine minute and holding this is shuttle launch control

[00:12:23 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=743s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=743s)

standby 30 seconds this is shuttle launch control at t minus nine minutes and holding the gox bent arm the good news all four primary computers and the one backup computer aboard the space shuttle columbia are all communicating properly we're told as the countdown has gone smoothly to the point of t minus nine minutes uh and holding now this is a built-in hole there's a 10-minute hole now underway obviously the reason we say good news things looking good with it was the bulky computers couldn't get along with one another in effect couldn't communicate with one another the other morning that caused the long delay and eventually the postponement of the shot as a whole but the latest word is that all of those computers are working and working well this morning no sign of any problem with the computers or anything else at the moment i repeat for emphasis that this hole that we're in the t minus nine minutes and holding a whole design for ten minutes uh that we're into uh we're scheduled into the launch procedure as things now stand the launch uh should go as scheduled at seven o'clock this

[00:14:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=841s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=841s)

as scheduled at seven o'clock this morning eastern time with me here in our cbs news studios at the kennedy space center as was the case the other morning former astronaut uh al bean i'm not sure that uh it isn't like the marines that one is never a former astronaut once you're an astronaut you're always an astronaut glad to have you with us this morning leo krupp uh with rockwell international uh our expert on hardware and just about everything else connected with the uh shop gentlemen let's have a good time this morning get this thing up uh any sign of any trouble anywhere leo crop everything looks good so far dan that minor problem they had with the oxygen to the face plates have been cleared up it turned out it was just a connector it wasn't seated properly and the weather looks beautiful out there this morning i noticed we have a good contrail layer about probably between 30 and 45 000 feet so on launch you should see a nice trail behind the spacecraft as it launches i always told people the uh on friday morning but i want to reemphasize it uh when we get down to liftoff time just before liftoff you're going to we're going to see and hear what first actually before this spacecraft gets lift off gets airborne we're going to see and hear what well first we're going to see the main engine start this will be about uh six or seven seconds prior to the actual liftoff so we'll probably see some smoke coming out of the center uh area beneath the spacecraft and then when it gets down to about a quarter of a second prior to liftoff we'll see the solids go start on either side which will give us much more in the way of uh flame and smoke and then by that time we're going to see a leap off the pad this thing should move quite a bit faster than we saw spacecraft move in apollo or as we get down a little bit closer to the uh lift off time we perhaps want to go through that again because uh sometimes uh once it begins it goes so quickly i hear people say contra i barely had a chance to see that or i went out of the room and i came back and the thing was already off and as you say particularly uh with this spacecraft it's going to leap off the pad in a way that we've never seen one do before because one's never done it before well it's still going to take about seven

[00:16:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=961s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=961s)

it's still going to take about seven seconds to clear the tower where paulo took 10 so it's not going to really leap off but it is going to move out fairly smartly i should have mentioned that of course with us today in houston or martine our cbs news correspondent colleague jack losman the former astronaut there at the johnson space center in houston good morning mort and jack and i trust that you don't hear any indications of any more computer problems in houston no we spent quite a bit of time yesterday talking with some of the experts who are involved in trying to solve that critical problem and they were very much satisfied yesterday that they had resolved the situation although they weren't able to find out exactly why it happened they do know what happened and were able to uh they say uh prevent it from happening again on this launch jack is my co-pilot for this broadcast dan and as we uh mentioned uh during our last broadcast on friday uh jack and alan bean were uh co-pilots uh so to speak in a skylab mission not too many years ago i was talking to jack before about just what the astronauts would have done yesterday they did some flying and otherwise was it pretty much a day off for them as they waited for this flight today well they uh flew the shuttle training airplane more to practice some more landings and approaches there at the big runway at cape kennedy i'm sure they got a very thorough briefing on the solution to the problem that was uh giving us difficulty uh first time around and i'm sure they also went over some more of their procedures so i'm guessing it was a rather busy yet semi-relaxed day you know what i found was extraordinary when i asked you if we could somehow add up the number of hours that crippen and young have spent in simulators and trainers you came up with a an amazing figure after all they have been working for some three years preparing for that flight jack perhaps you could uh go to those figures once again how many hours have they spent in simulators well we have a shuttle mission simulator here at houston mort and

[00:18:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1081s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1081s)

here at houston mort and they spent about 1400 hours in the shuttle mission simulator simulating a launch and on orbit operations and entries many malfunction procedures and emergency procedures and we also have the shuttle training airplane that we mentioned earlier that they practice in again yesterday and they have about 150 to 200 hours flying that for simulated approaches and then of course there are all the other multitude of lesser simulators and briefings and checklist procedures and so forth to go through so they've spent a lot of time training but mostly in the shuttle mission simulator in the simulator and of course this type of aircraft or spacecraft it's both as never flown before and then i think there was one break from tradition this morning according to the menu i saw the astronauts did not have steak this morning and uh to the best of my memory astronauts have always had steak on the day of launch so maybe that's a good sign maybe they're trying to uh break the cycle of bad luck with the shuttle well let's hope so mark uh they had canadian bacon instead of steak this morning and launch director george page speaking to the crew said that if they see any problems not to take any chances and he also re-read to them president reagan's message the message in which the president said you go in the hand of god and that you once again uh make us all feel as giants we don't know whether president reagan is up this morning and uh watching the launch although we were told that he very likely would be if he felt like doing so we have no indication if he is watching how he's watching but uh knowing president reagan to be a fellow who likes excellence we can assume he's watching cbs this morning we hope that he is at any rate the computer problem that caused the scrubbing of friday's launch was a 40 millisecond gap that's 40 over 1000 40 millisecond gap in the synchronization between the four primary computers on board and the fifth backup computer bruce hall has more about that space shuttle controllers have discovered a way to avoid the problem

[00:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1200s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1200s)

discovered a way to avoid the problem that caused friday's launch cancellation a way to eliminate a timing difference in the spacecraft's computers the deputy shuttle manager said they did not actually change the two computer systems but developed a way they can test the computers by stopping and restarting them for all future loads we will at the minimum do this check to verify times come up and are insane the problem which did not surface until the final hour before the scheduled launch was apparently planted in the computers 30 hours earlier when commands were sent out to start it was a very difficult problem to diagnose it was in a very complex area of the program and i think we were quite fortunate to uh nail the problem as quickly as we did at the launch pad at kennedy space center there were very few problems that had to be dealt with we got a an indication on our hazardous gas system that we had a leak inside the tail service mass and we're running some mass spectrometer leak checks down there today we don't expect that to be a problem the delay also gave inspectors a chance to take a closer look at the insulation on the fuel tank that has caused so much trouble since it was damaged during a january test we've taken uh made an inspection of the insulation on the external tank the e.t to make sure that we didn't have any problems there and everything looks good in that area page set up the liftoff is delayed again it would probably be at least tuesday before another attempt could be made to launch the shuttle bruce hall cbs news at the kennedy space center and the clock is now running out of the planned ten minute hole eight minutes and nine seconds and counting down toward launch let's uh pick up the rest of the announcement from space shuttle control the slate t-38 supersonic trainers have

[00:22:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1320s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1320s)

the slate t-38 supersonic trainers have such critical timing because of the small fuel load that they carry t-minus seven minutes 52 seconds and counting uh approximately 40 seconds away from movement of the orbiter access arm this is the final arm which must be moved out of the way to provide for the orbiter to clear the tower properly this may be a very uh interesting launch to watch from the standpoint that the orbiter is able to translate slightly horizontally as it begins to lift off and it also does a roll maneuver uh which will place it the orbiter is sort of on its back as it goes uh towards the proper inclination to the equator t-minus seven minutes seven seconds and counting t minus seven minutes and counting and we have retraction of the orbiter access arm beginning to move back first away from the orbiter and then to swing away this was the walkway attached to the service structure and used by the crew to walk to the orbiter the crew has been advised to lower their helmet visors very slow movement by the orbiter access arm t-minus six minutes 29 seconds and countered crew is beginning the apu pre-start uh this the start begins at the five minute point in the countdown t-minus six minutes 15 seconds and counting the apus are turbine devices fueled by hydrazine which provides hydraulic power to change the angle of the engines and the flight surfaces on the orbiter t-minus five minutes 59

[00:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1440s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1440s)

on the orbiter t-minus five minutes 59 seconds and counting pilot bob crippen had begun that apu pre-start which started about 48 seconds from now the development flight instrumentation which measures the stresses on the orbiter during fight have been turned on and recorders uh store information for playback after landing minus five minutes thirty seconds mark and counting mark [Music] the auxiliary power units are ready to be started in five minutes and counting [Music] t-minus five minutes and counting we've got a goal for apu start apu start is in work this is very start sequence the final chase plane has taken off from patrick air force base t minus 4 minutes 42 seconds and counting [Music] t minus 4 minutes 30 seconds and counting once we get the apu start we have a total of 12 minutes of hydrazine supply for running the apu's prior to a lift-off everything going [Music] as preparation for main engine ignition the main fuel valve heaters have been turned off

00:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1560s)

fuel valve heaters have been turned off t-minus three minutes 57 seconds and counting the final helium purge on the shuttle main engine has been started in preparation for engine start the liquid oxygen replenish system has been turned off in preparation for pressurization of the tanks for the launch t-minus three minutes 35 seconds and counting the elevon speed brake and rudder are being moved through a pre-programmed pattern to assure that they'll be ready for use in flight [Music] t-minus three minutes 20 seconds and counting the shuttle is now on internal power however the fuel cells are still receiving their fuels from the ground support system for one more additional minute minus three minutes t-minus three minutes and counting the engine gimbal our movement check is underway to assure they're ready for flight control minutes 52 seconds the lox valve on the external tank has been closed and pressurization has begun after the tank is pressurized they hold capabilities 36 seconds t-minus 2 minutes 40 seconds and counting [Music] that movement a moment ago was to check to make sure that the engines could be moved that they're supposed to move and they did vehicle is using its onboard supply t minus two minutes 25 seconds and county t-minus two minutes fifteen seconds the pressure in the lox tank is at flight pressure coming up on just two minutes away from launch t-minus two minutes mark and count

00:28:08 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1688s)

[Applause] is just that smooth sailing baby to astronauts john young and bob crippen t minus one minute 35 seconds and counting one minute t minus one minute 20 seconds and counting we can see the purges of the main engines as we prepare for ignition t minus one minute ten seconds and counting liquid hydrogen tank is at flight pressure coming up t-minus one minute t minus one minute mark and counting the firing system for the sound suppression water will be armed in just a couple seconds from now it has been armed minus 45 seconds and counting [Music] t minus 40 seconds and counting the development flight instrumentation recorders are on t-minus 35 seconds we're just a few seconds away from switching to the redundant sequencer t minus 27 seconds we've gone for redundance at sequencer start t minus 20 seconds and counting t minus 15 14 13. t minus 10 9 8 7 6

00:30:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1803s)

[Music] shuttle [Music] they're awesomely four thirty four bucks roger [Music] roger columbia on a nice ride you're laughing a little bit so you'll probably be slightly high at staging colombia your negative seats says uh columbia is the altitude too high for ejection seat use from your gopher

00:32:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=1923s)

two minutes four seconds standing back confirmation roger on the step columbia two minutes confirmed mark uh two minutes 30 seconds on board guidance is converging this program colombia is now steering for his precise window in space for main engine cutoff mark two minutes 40 seconds columbia now 39 nautical miles in altitude 42 nautical miles downrange mark two minutes to 50 seconds columbia you're looking a little hot all your calls will be a little early three minutes young and and rayleigh moving out now velocity now reading 6200 feet per second mark three minutes 15 seconds columbia now 51 nautical miles in altitude 66 nautical miles downrange velocity now reading 6500 feet per second mark three minutes 30 seconds columbia now 55 nautical miles altitude 78 nautical miles downrange mark 3 minutes 40 seconds standing by for a return status check in mission control by flight director neil hutchinson columbia governor green to continue mark three minutes 55 seconds standing by for a prestamiko which says colombia should lose one

[00:34:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2040s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2040s)

which says colombia should lose one engine columbia stand by prestamiko columbia continues flying forward coming up on north korea mark 24 8 columbia stand by for negative returns mark negative return and your revamp is good mark uh four minutes five seconds will that call out okay capcom right columbia houston uh we're showing both olms pc transducers off scale high mark four minutes 45 seconds the flash evaporator is activated on board to keep the storage scale low here roger stand by we'll keep an eye on it 56 seconds columbia's lasting early in the second stage is now being taken out of the trajectories program columbia enough 74 nautical miles to altitude 181 nautical miles that's nominal there man what a view what a view glad you're enjoying it mark 5 minute 15 seconds the columbia now 75 nautical miles altitude uh 202 nautical miles downrange velocity now reading 11 000 feet per second a status checking mission controlled by flight director neal hutchinson columbia houston your go at 5 30 miko 8 plus 3 4. mark 5 minutes 40 seconds i'd call up from capcom [Music] [Applause] columbia we just switched over bermuda boy should be getting better here in a

[00:36:10 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2170s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2170s)

second from houston i could have the cryo heaters please and columbia your single engine rotor mark six minutes twenty-five mark six minutes 40 seconds columbia pitching over now diving to increase velocity decrease altitude giving colombia her most favorable attitude colombia now 72 nautical miles in altitude 373 nautical miles downrange velocity now reading the 16 400 feet per second standing by for a single engine pressed amigo call up from capcom brandenstein columbia your single engine press for miko mark 7 22nd report says the young encryptions can achieve orbital insertion even if two engines go out mark uh seven minutes 30 seconds columbia 67 nautical miles in altitude 485 nautical miles downrange g-force is building for young and crippen now up to three g's mark seven minutes uh 45 seconds columbia's main engine slowly being throttled back now should be throttled at 65 percent at six seconds before main engine cutoff status checking the control center columbia houston you're going eight mark

[00:38:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2281s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2281s)

columbia houston you're going eight mark eight minutes four columbia now 63 nautical miles in altitude 606 nautical miles downrange mark 8 minutes 15 seconds colombia now 63 nautical miles in altitude 650 nautical miles downrange standing by now for main engine cutoff [Applause] roger columbia amigo confirmed shut down columbia the gem of this new ocean now in space not yet in orbit now standing by now for external tank separation okay we've got step roger we confirm this up columbia nine minutes three seconds confirm external tank separation columbia now performing an evasive maneuver moving below and beyond and translating the north of the external tank young should see it moving away out this winter nine minutes 40 seconds going on go status check and mission control for the first old spurn give it a go and the sun here in the atlantic ocean for use in another day the external tank will not be used again uh it will be destroyed then uh land over the indian ocean attitude

[00:40:06 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2406s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2406s)

one will be causing great moving colombia foreign the situation on the ground around the launch pad 39a where an absolutely zero flaw launch was affected columbia 67 nautical miles downtown 1160 nautical miles downrange the ground absolutely crumbled for miles around great thunderous liftoff four and a half million pounds thrown uh upward that was the weight that uh on the left most of that of course in fuel roger columbia they're looking good to us a status check in the control center now moving into oms burn leo krupp exactly what does that mean they have to light off the ohm's engines for the first time now to increase the velocity of the orbital velocity configurations you're looking good burning over the hill we'll see at madrid this burn will put us into 130 by 58 nautical mile elliptical orbit and later on we'll do another one to burn to circularize that at 130 circular when is the next danger point coming up here very shortly two minutes after uh tank separation here we should be doing this ohm's one burn should be doing it right about now it is underway and the astronauts right now are doing exactly what leo well they had to set up for this burn they had to put some switches in the right position they had to program the computer maneuver to the proper attitude so that when this thrust comes on it will increase their velocity and put them into this 130 by 58 nautical mile orbital

[00:42:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2523s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2523s)

through bermuda the next station to acquire will be madrid unfortunately we lose communications before the burn is complete so when they get to madrid we'll be able to find out if the burn was good still receiving data however in the control center right at the shutdown they saw the right it lost the signal they saw the shutdown of the homes keep in mind that the first orbital engine firing or burn is to get the orbital height and the second orbital engine firing is to make the orbit circular and the crew will leave their seats for the first time as the first orbit is completed that would be about an hour and 15 minutes into the flight now we're told yes the spacecraft is in orbit very successful for the first burn is successful the orbital engine firing burned into orbital height successful absolutely flawless launch into orbit i can say that probably bob and crippling they're so excited now they just can't hardly stand it they even made the comment during launch that the view was great out those windows [Applause] as the spacecraft uh reaches into orbit and uh prepares for to make its first uh circular orbit of the earth we'll say that our cbs news coverage of the flight and we can now say flight of spacecraft columbia will continue after this pause for station identification

[00:44:05 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2645s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2645s)

madrid come take houston underground one this is my complex all right you want to do an h5 i'm gonna multi access here to ground one and two ruger this houston contact testing one two three four five test out roger both being and modulation are go around one or ground two large configured at the kennedy space center in florida far out of sight now the astronauts aboard the successfully launched space shuttle columbia have successfully fired their first orbital engine which is designed to get them to the orbital height of approximately 130 nautical miles up that's what they're in the process of doing now once they get to their orbit height of approximately 130 nautical miles up then they'll have the second orbital engine firing that'll be uh roughly a half hour from now in order to put them into their circular orbit around the earth this the largest spacecraft ever launched by man the first winged spaceship the first spaceship to carry a human crew on its maiden voyage all previous manned spacecraft were tested to unmanned before they went into orbit remember we've been saying all week long and as the time for the launch built friday morning and again this morning built everybody a little bit nervous the tension a little heavier than even usual for space firing because this spacecraft had not been tested at a launch in uh unmanned fashion as all others had

[00:46:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2762s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eClt1f-iLJ0&t=2762s)

in uh unmanned fashion as all others had spacecraft designed to carry men uh and in this case uh that tension was a little extra because it simply had never been done before but done now done successfully the astronauts in the spaceship heading uh for their orbiting height of 130 nautical miles then to have the firing of their other orbital engine to put themselves in a circular orbit around the earth any sign of any difficulty anywhere leo everything looks great you look like a relieved man your hands have stopped shaking then other things that launch was the most spectacular thing i've ever seen and i want to say before we get too far along here and we've got a lot of ground to cover this morning that sitting here in our uh cbs news control area a long way from the launch site well over a mile from the launch site itself the whole building shook the ground literally shook uh as the spacecraft columbia started its own sun below itself caused that great thunder and lifted off the pad headed toward that orbit had that tense moment when the liquid fuel boosters on the side had done their job you didn't quite know whether it was going to those explosion boats on the side would get the job done they did their job then piggybacking on the external tank didn't quite know whether external tank would let loose as it ought to it did they did and we're headed for they are headed for the orbital height what a tremendous accomplishment our cbs news coverage of the flight of the space shuttle columbia will continue in just a moment

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